CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A delivery assembly for passively delivering a medical device, the assembly comprising:

a tube having first and second open ends;

a polytetrafluoroethylene membrane sheath having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the membrane sheath is disposed inside the tube, the second end of the membrane sheath is disposed exterior of the tube, and the medical device is positioned on the membrane sheath inside the tube such that the membrane sheath is interposed between the medical device and the tube; and

a guide assembly connected to the second end of the membrane sheath, wherein the guide assembly is disposed exterior the tube;

wherein the second end of the membrane sheath is inverted over the second open end of the tube.

2. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the medical device comprises an intraocular ophthalmic lens.

3. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the medical device comprises a stent.

4. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the medical device comprises a swab.

5. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the medical device comprises a medical drug for delivery into a body cavity.

6. The delivery assembly of claim 1, further comprising a string attached to the first end of the membrane sheath, wherein the string extends through the first end of the tube.

7. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the second open end of the tube has a straight tip.

8. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the second open end of the tube has a tapered tip.

9. The delivery assembly of claim 8, wherein the tapered tip has a plurality of slots provided longitudinally along the length of the tip.

10. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the second open end of the tube has a beveled corner tip.

11. The delivery assembly of claim 1, wherein the tube and the membrane sheath are not lubricated.

12. A delivery system for insertion into an anatomical canal, the delivery system comprising:

a tube having first and second open ends;

an unfolding polytetrafluoroethylene membrane sheath having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the membrane sheath is disposed inside the tube and the second end of the membrane sheath is disposed exterior of the tube;

a medical device pre-loaded inside the tube, wherein the medical device is positioned inside the membrane sheath inside the tube; and

a guide assembly connected to the second end of the membrane sheath;

wherein the second end of the membrane sheath is inverted over the second open end of the tube, and wherein the membrane sheath is suitably removed from the second open of the tube such that the membrane sheath is interposed between the medical device and the anatomical canal as the medical device is inserted into the anatomical canal.

13. The delivery system of claim 12, wherein the medical device comprises an intraocular ophthalmic lens.

14. The delivery system of claim 12, wherein the medical device comprises a stent.

15. The delivery system of claim 12, wherein the medical device comprises a swab.

16. The delivery system of claim 12, wherein the medical device comprises a medical drug for delivery into a body cavity.

17. A method for delivery of a medical device onto a delivery location of a patient, comprising the steps of:

providing a delivery assembly comprising a tube having first and second open ends, a polytetrafluoroethylene membrane sheath having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the membrane sheath is disposed inside the tube, the second end of the membrane sheath is disposed exterior of the tube, the medical device is positioned on the membrane sheath inside the tube, the second end of the membrane sheath is inverted over the second open end of the tube and a guide assembly connected to the second end of the membrane sheath, wherein the guide assembly is disposed exterior the tube;

inserting the second end of the tube into an anatomical canal of a patient;

maintaining the first end of the tube outside of the anatomical canal of the patient;

pushing the tube into the anatomical canal of the patient until the second end of the tube reaches the delivery location for the medical device, thereby causing the membrane sheath to be withdrawn, further unfold and be interposed between the tube and the patient's anatomical canal; and

extracting the membrane sheath and the tube from the patient's anatomical canal after the medical device has been introduced onto the delivery location in the patient.